# OZONE ADVANCE

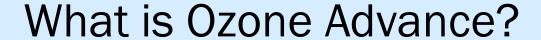
April 24, 2012 Webinar
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

## Overview

- What is Ozone Advance?
- Why should attainment areas work to reduce ozone?
- Who can participate?
- What are the criteria for program eligibility?
- What might you get out of participating?
- What does participation mean?
- What clarifications were made to the program guidance?
- Who has expressed interest?









Ozone Advance is a collaborative effort by EPA, states, tribes, and local governments to encourage emission reductions in ozone <u>attainment</u> areas, to help them continue to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS).

### **Program Goals:**

- (1) Help attainment areas take action in order to keep ozone levels below the level of the standard to ensure continued health protection,
- (2) Better position areas to remain in attainment,
- (3) Efficiently direct available resources toward actions to address ozone problems quickly.

## Why Should Attainment Areas Work to Reduce Ozone?

- Ensure continued health protection
- Less resource intensive to implement measures early
- More flexibility to pursue a wide range of options
- Proactive
  - > Could better position some areas to stay in attainment
  - If eventually designated, could provide needed reductions that could result in a lower classification and/or that could feed into any eventual SIP
- EPA could consider early efforts as a factor in exercising its discretion to redesignate areas not violating in 2008-10 but violating in later years to nonattainment
- Multi-pollutant co-benefits

#### Who Can Participate?

- States, tribes, local governments (S/T/L)
- Councils of Government (COGs)
- Other stakeholders, in conjunction with any of the above
- "Lead"participant?

## What Are the Criteria for Program Eligibility?

- Area must not be nonattainment for either 1997 or 2008 8-hour standards at the time the S/T/L(s) is/are accepted into the program.
  - Maintenance areas
  - Eventual Marginal areas
- S/T/L should generally identify the area
- S/T/L should identify the monitor(s) that reflect the area's air quality
- Required emissions inventory reporting should be complete



## What Might You Get Out Of Participating?

- EPA support
- Rallying point for public/stakeholder awareness and involvement
- Framework for action
- Preferred status for DERA grants, see www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/prgnational.htm
- Possible recognition
- Opportunity to highlight measures/programs already underway along with those undertaken as part of Program
- Stakeholder group formation, engagement

## What Does Participation Mean?

- Use best efforts to move quickly toward implementing steps that may reduce ozone levels
- Develop a "path forward" within a year
- Implement path forward measures/programs as soon as possible
- Informal status check-ins at least annually

## What Clarifications Were Made to the Program Guidance?

- 1. Eligibility criteria, acceptance into the program
- 2. Nonattainment areas (1997 NAAQS) that are now attaining must be redesignated attainment to participate
- 3. Soon to be Marginal areas have until the effective date of designations to sign up
- 4. DERA preference (RFP posted April 20, closes June 4; see www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/prgnational.htm)
- 5. Multi-pollutant reductions
- 6. Existing measures along with new measures
- 7. Transport
- 8. Areas likely to attain via Federal measures
- 9. Can incorporate measures into a SIP anytime
- 10. Ozone Flex

## Who Has Expressed Interest?



- Wyoming DEQ has been accepted into the program
- No trends yet; potential participants are widely scattered across the country.
- We have talked with various states and local areas, and will continue to reach out.

## **Contacts**

#### Questions about Ozone Advance

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## QUESTIONS?

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Webinar Slides: www.epa.gov/apti/webinars.html

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